

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Ford
 Senator Dewey F. Bartlett (R-Okla.)
 Senator Robert P. Griffin (R-Mich.)
 Amb. Donald Rumsfeld, Assistant to President
 John O. Marsh, Jr., Counselor to the President
 Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant
 to the President for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME: Monday, July 7, 1975
 5:15 p. m.

PLACE: The Oval Office

SUBJECT: The Senators' Visit to Somalia



President: I would be interested in what you found in Somalia.

Bartlett: The Somali Colonel called the Soviet Ship a barracks ship and said we couldn't go aboard. The Colonel said he could go aboard or tell the ship to leave, but maybe they wouldn't and he would look bad. The ship services Soviet submarines.

There were lots of Soviets around. They were really all over the place. We got a briefing from the Greeks who were there for awhile. They said the Somalis threw rocks at them because they thought they were Soviets. The Soviets are very racist.

When we were going up to the construction facility, the guard cocked his rifle at us. The Colonel said it was a Soviet radio facility and he had asked permission twice to go in and had been refused. I said, "You are not in control then." He said no, but he didn't amplify that. It was a very powerful transmitter station. The technician we had got some good information from looking at the antenna. While we were looking at the antenna, the Somali Admiral was very nervous and there were six guards on the ground with their rifles trained on us.

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5

NSC Memo, 11/24/98, State Dept. Guidelines

By KAH, NARA, Date 7/12/01TOP SECRET (S) CLASSIFIED BY: HENRY A. KIDWELL

They let five of us go to the missile facility, and again there were guards with rifles trained on us -- Somali guards. We went into the facility. In the warhead bunker there were only containers for five-inch shells -- which had nothing to do with the facility -- maybe to confuse us. Then we went into a high, long area. There was a large crane with a cab, which had a capacity of about 25 tons. It was big enough for any missile. There were dollies for hauling missiles.

We saw a Styx missile box. Our technicians felt the Somalis know nothing at all about the facility. The Somalis don't have any craft capable of using the Styx -- but they said they were getting them.

Then we went to the airport. Right now it's just crushed rock for a mile and a half. The whole runway is about 17,000 feet. The Somalis don't need that kind of runway. They said it's for flying cattle out.

Siad told us the invitation was not to see Berbera but the drought and refugee and relocation camps. Siad tried to divert me from Berbera. We did see one camp.

We all had the impression that Siad's hand of friendship is out to us.

President: Did the Ambassador go with you? I read he offered us the same facilities as the Soviets.

Bartlett: Yes. He has offered a port call at Mogadiscio. [Secretary of the Navy] Middendorf wants to take it up. The Ambassador says Somalia wants to offer us equal treatment with the Soviets. I think the door is open and I would recommend some high-level person to follow it up.

I also recommend some food aid. A third of their people are on a starvation diet. They are getting some aid but it is running out. They are taking a big risk -- moving nomads from the desert to the rainy area.

President: Give me a copy of your report. There is no doubt the Soviet facility is there?

Bartlett: Everything Schlesinger said is true. There was a big new building they said was a hospital. It couldn't be. Also there were three permanent barracks they said were for refugees. But they were housing refugees in temporary housing elsewhere. These were permanent facilities. Also there is a water pipeline with desalting equipment.



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3.

President: Will this help us get Diego Garcia?

Bartlett: Yes, it will. But Culver and that crowd will say we should talk with the Soviets to talk them out of it. Mansfield's man Rexroad went with us and he agreed with us and the report -- but he will still oppose Diego Garcia.



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✓ P/Senators Bartlett + Gipping
7 July 75 Rumfeldt/Marsh

P. I'd be interested in what you found in Somalia

B. The Somali Colonel called - Saw ship a
banned ship + we couldn't go aboard. The
Col said he could go aboard as tall a ship to
behave, but maybe they wouldn't + he would look
back. The ship service saw seals.

There were lots of Sows around. They were
everywhere all over a place. We got a briefing from
a Greek who was there for a while. They said
a Somali threw rocks at them saying that
they were Sows. The Sows ~~are~~ are very smart.
Going up to a comm. facility + guard checked his
up to us. The Col. said it a Sow radio
facility + he had asked permission twice to go in
+ been refused. I said you not in control then.
He said no but didn't say anything that. It was a
very powerful transmitter station. The technician
we had got some good info from looking at a
antenna. While we were looking at a antenna
a Somali admiral was very nervous + there
were big guards on a ground w/ their rifles
trained on us.

They let 5 of us go to a missile facility, again
guard w/ rifle trained on us (Somali guards.)
We went into a facility. In a workshop bunker
there were only containers for 5" shells - nothing
to do w/ a facility - maybe to confuse us.
Then we went into high bay area. Was
a large crane w/ a cab, which had a cap.



of about 25 tons. Big dump for any missile. There were dollars for buying missiles.

We saw a Styx missile box. Our technicians felt a Somali know nothing at all about the facility. Somalis don't have any craft capable of using Styx - but said they were getting them.

Then we went to airport. Light tower it just covered rock for ~~to~~ 1/2 mile. Whole runway about 17000. Somalis don't need that kind of runway - they said for flying cattle cart.

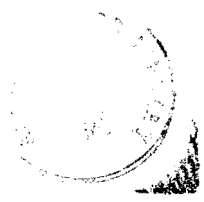
Sial told us a emigration was out to the Berbera but a drought + Meyer + relocation camps. Sial tried to divert me from Berbera. We did see one camp.

We all had impression that Sial's brand of friendship is out.

P Did a Arab go w/ you? Sial he offered us a some facilities as a Sovs

B Yes. He has spent a part call at Uyoakho. Madhuf wants to take it up. The Arab says Somali wants to offer equal treatment w/ a Sovs. I think a door is open & I would recommend some high level person follow it up. I also recommend some food aid. 1/3 of their people ~~are~~ on starvation diet. They getting some aid but it running out. They taking big risk - moving nomads from desert to rainy area.

P Tell me a copy of your report. There is no doubt a Sov facility is there?



B. Everything I told is true. There was a
big ^{town} building they said was hospo. I wouldn't be.
Also 3 barracks they said were for refugees, but
they were housing refugees in temporary huts.
There were prominent fascists. Also another prisoner
w/ description

P. Will you help get Diego Amico.

B. ^{Y.P. Best} Culture + crowd will say we should talk w/ Ross
to talk them out of ~~it~~ it. Mansfield's man
Rexwood went up not he agreed w/ us + report -
but he will still pose Diego Amico

